

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/606,575

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 32, lines 10-23 as follows:

5 As will be understood by those familiar with the art, the invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof. For example, the particular steps of implementing and effecting the direct profile process, the enhance process, the merge process or the rollup process may depart from that described and illustrated, to include more
10 or fewer steps that achieve substantially the same effects. Likewise, the particular naming of the processes, protocols, features, attributes or any other aspect is not mandatory or significant, and the mechanisms that implement the invention or its features may have different names or formats. While particularly useful in the healthcare setting, and more particularly to identifying fraud and/or
15 abuse therein, the present invention may be used in many other applications and setting, and for different purposes outside of identifying fraud. Multiple entity profile, a profile of at least one multiple entity defined by a combination including individual entities, is useful in any environment where an understanding of the interactions between multiple entities is desirable, such as for statistical analysis,
20 prediction, forecasting, and so forth. Accordingly, the disclosure of the present invention is intended to be illustrative, but not limiting, of the scope of the invention, which is set forth in the following claims.